

MATTOON

MATTOON, ILLINOIS: *Working Together to Build the Future*

220788

December 12, 2007

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S W.
Washington, D C. 20423-0001

Re Finance Docket No. 35087 Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation- Control- EJ&E West Company

Dear Secretary Williams.

Please accept this letter as notice that the City of Mattoon, Illinois intends to participate in the above cited proceedings as a Party of Record. I request that the City of Mattoon be added to the service list and receive copies of all motions, pleadings, correspondence and other filings made in connection with the above cited proceeding to the following recipients:

David Cline
Mayor, City of Mattoon
208 North 19th
Mattoon, IL 61938

Alan Gilmore
City Administrator, City of Mattoon
208 North 19th
Mattoon, IL 61938

I would also like to take the opportunity to comment on the Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation's request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) treat the transaction as "minor" under the Board's rules, 49 C.F.R 1180.2. I believe that the STB should treat this case as a "significant" transaction rather than a "minor" transaction. I commend the STB for determining that an Environmental Impact Study will now be included in the transaction.

I am deeply concerned about the Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation's request to acquire the EJ&E rail road and abandon the Lake Front Line and St. Charles Air Line rail routes. The St. Charles Air Line is the route that Amtrak trains Illini, Saluki and City of New Orleans use to access Chicago Union Station. The City of Mattoon believes this acquisition will ultimately have a negative impact on these Amtrak operations that serve our community. This acquisition will have profound consequences.



Mayor
David W. Cline
Commissioners
David R. Schilling
Joseph McKenzie
Randy Ervin
Rick Hall

Mattoon City Hall
208 N 19th Street
Mattoon, Illinois 61938
Mayor 217-234-4633
City Clerk 217-235-5654
Fax 217-258-6435

City Administrator
Alan Gilmore
City Clerk
Susan J. O'Brien
City Attorney & Treasurer
J. Preston Owen



on the 30,000 downstate constituents who annually utilize the Mattoon Amtrak Station. Those especially burdened will be business travelers and college students attending Eastern Illinois University and Lake Land College who are very dependant on public transportation. Without a viable route into Union Station these down state trains may be discontinued, leaving this part of Illinois without viable and cost effective public transportation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and in your deliberations, please give the impact on downstate Amtrak riders your utmost consideration and the effects this action will have on downstate Illinois. Should any additional information be needed, please contact the following recipients as mentioned above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan W. Che", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor, City of Mattoon

CC: Alan Gilmore, City of Mattoon, City Administrator

Certificate of Service

The undersigned mayor hereby certifies that he has caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing documents(s) to be served upon:

Original and Ten Copies to:

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D C. 20423-0001

One Notice of Intent to Participate, will be mailed to the service list as found on the STB website

<http://www.stb.dot.gov/service%20list/servicelist.nsf/svclistcaller?OpenForm&Seq=1as>

the forgoing Notice of Intent to Participate is being severed by first class mail, postage prepaid, and deposited in the United States Mail at Mattoon, IL on the 12th day of December 2007, at 5 00p m to the following:

See Attached Service List

Affirmation In Lieu Of An Oath

I, David Cline, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this Notice of Intent to participate Executed on December 12, 2007.



David Cline
Mayor, City of Mattoon

Attached Service List

I hereby certify that on December 12, 2007 the Notice of Intent to Participate is being severed by first class mail to the following:

Hirsh, David A
Harkins Cunningham
1700 K Street, Nw, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3817

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P O BOX 1248
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Karen Darch
Village Of Barrington
Village Hall 200 S. Hough St.
Barrington, IL 60010

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Washington, DC 20515-2216

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